

What to wear at a job interview

A lot of people worry about their outfits on a day to day basis, so choosing what to wear to an interview can be even more nerve racking! If it's your first job interview deciding on a final outfit might be bothering you more than it should do, and this is understandable as your appearance is the first thing an interviewer will see and first impressions are instant.

The thing to think about when deciding what you're going to wear to an interview is the job role it's for. For example, the clothes you choose for an interview within a solicitors firm tend to be different to those you might choose for a job in a warehouse environment. The best advice is to dress "appropriately" for whatever kind of job you are applying for.

Formal interviews

Guys, although you might be trying to choose an outfit that will portray you as intelligent, interview outfits for this kind of job role have really always been the same. Fashion trends come and go but truthfully a shirt and tie combination is timeless and can never go wrong. After all, when was the last time you saw a fashion magazine without a celebrity rocking a suit? Adding a little colour with your tie choice can also differentiate you from the next person being seen for the same job role. Be careful though, as hilarious as you think your favourite cartoon tie is, your interviewer might not see you as a new fun addition to the team, but instead seeing someone who's not serious about the job.

Ladies have more of a choice when it comes to formal-wear. A nice but simple blouse or t-shirt is always a winner with employers, the employer will look at what you're wearing and presume that is the same type of style you will continue to wear if taken on by the company. Skirts can be a very popular option especially in the summer months and "They" say that a skirt should be 4 inches below the knee, but it changes from person to person and with different styles of skirts. Always be prepared as well, taking a spare pair of tights can be important in case worst comes to worst and the original pair split!

Sometimes it's good to be simple. Keeping colours to a minimum (such as blacks, whites and greys) can be the best kind of option for this type of interview, but adding a splash of colour with jewellery such as a watch or necklace can be the touch of individuality that finishes off an outfit (just make sure not to go too over the top!).



Informal interviews

When it comes to interviews, you don't necessarily have to try dressing like James Bond. Although some people think that it is essential to splash out with an interview outfit to impress, the truth is as long as you can prove to the employer that you have made an effort it's the talking that will get you the job opportunity! After all they will be hiring you, not your costume. It doesn't matter if you wear brand new designer clothes or an old outfit you wore to a friend of the families wedding, all the interviewer wants to see is that you are serious about your application.

Sometimes just a casual shirt and trousers can be the simplicity that an employer wants to see. Although you should always attend looking smart and presentable, if the job role you are applying for wouldn't require you to be suited and booted everyday then you shouldn't worry too much about going the extra mile.

If in doubt, why not ask for suggestions from someone you know has had experience with interviews in the job role you are going for? You could even give the companies HR department a call and ask for advice on the dress code for the interview. Whatever you decide to do, be sure to be comfortable. The interview is a time for you to express to your possible new employer why you are eligible for the role and its best to feel as relaxed as possible when doing this.

What else?

Although it's not clothing, taking a folder of your certificates and achievements to an interview can prove to an employer that you are professional about the job role and are taking the interview seriously. They might not ask to look at the documents but as long as they know it's there it shows the effort you're making.

A final tip but maybe the most important is to make sure everything is crease free and clean, especially shoes. Although it might not seem important, Researchers at the University of Kansas say that people can accurately judge 90 percent of a stranger's personality simply by looking at the person's shoes! And you don't want a rogue stain to change an employer's opinion of you.

It might be disheartening not receiving a job offer after an interview, but there will always be more out there. The more interviews you attend the more experience you will gain and in no time you will find yourself an offer!